

# The Outpost

Published for the employees and families of Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, U. S. Army Garrison - Yuma, Cold Regions Test Center, and Tropic Regions Test Center

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona 85365

YPG Website: [www.yuma.army.mil](http://www.yuma.army.mil)

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## Proving ground recognized for new methods on energy conservation

By Danielle Montgomery

And the award goes to ... U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground.

On Aug. 18, YPG was awarded the Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for Innovation in New Technology. At the same time, several other Department of Defense installations received awards for their role in energy conservation. YPG Garrison Energy Manager Jack Nixon, and Garrett Smith, acting Garrison manager, journeyed to Long Beach, Calif., to accept the award on behalf of the installation.

The installation was nominated by YPG personnel because of the new methods used to conserve energy and water. "Since 1985, the base year for energy consumption for the installation, we were able to reduce our energy consumption per square foot basis by 37 percent by implementing these policies," says Nixon.

The energy act of August 2005 is even stricter. It requires federal installations to reduce energy usage by



Jack Nixon, energy manager, displays the plaque he received on behalf of Yuma Proving Ground at the recent Army Energy Forum held in Long Beach, Calif. (Loaned photo)

2 percent a year from the previous year instead of the 1.5 percent required in the past. "Computer moni-

tors alone use 250 watts of energy to be powered up. The central processing unit only needs about 20 or 30 watts of

energy. When stepping out of the office for long periods of time, at least turn off the monitor. You will save a tremendous amount money and energy," shares Nixon.

Air conditioning for the installation has been quite costly for many years. New cooling units that are a great deal more energy efficient are being emplaced to reduce costs. "In the past we used units that were Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) 10," said Nixon. "We're replacing those that are old or nonfunctioning with units that are SEER 14, thus saving even more energy."

A new regulation that requires individuals at Department of the Army installations to start taking new measures to conserve energy will soon be in effect. AR 11-27 chapter 23 of AR 420-1 states, "electrical equipment and appliances are to be turned off when not in use and during non-duty hours. Office computers, desk top units, and personal computers will not remain powered-up during periods of opera-

(Continue on page 3)

## Pumping pain felt at the installation

By Mary F. Flores

Every weekend, nearly 2,000 Yuma Proving Ground employees prepare for their weekly trek of 25-40 miles round trip by filling up their gasoline tanks. With gasoline prices well over \$3 a gallon, depending on what grade you use, employees are feeling the pinch along with the rest of the nation but are coping with the situation.

In the past year, gasoline prices across the nation have continued to rise and pricing analyst expect even higher prices at the pump due to hurricane Katrina, which devastated the Gulf Coast region, where many refineries are located.

The United States consumes over 20 million barrels (840 million gallons) of petroleum products daily, almost half of it in the form of gasoline used in more than 200 million motor vehicles with a combined travel of over seven billion miles per day.

Although consumers are seeing an increase in gasoline prices, American motorists are still paying a lot less than others around the world. According to the Oil Price Information

Service, which provides the American Automobile Association with daily reports on fuel prices, as of last May, the price of regular unleaded gasoline per gallon in Amsterdam cost \$6.21, in Paris \$5.43, and Kuwait City paid 68 cents per gallon.

At YPG there are approximately 1,100 government vehicles, including trucks, sedans, bulldozers, road graders, tactical vehicles, tanks and self-propelled howitzers that support the test mission. To operate these vehicles from September 2004 through August 2005, it took 511,797 gallons of unleaded gasoline, 300,826 gallons of diesel and 1,416,982 gallons of jet propulsion fuel (JP8). The cost of gasoline for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 was \$1.79 per gallon for regular unleaded, \$1.82 for diesel and \$1.74 for JP8.

"Gas prices change every fiscal year because they are contracted through the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC)," said Steve Plaisance, director of Logistics Directorate. "This agency manages fuel for the Department of Defense. We are in the process of contacting them to determine if any major increases in gasoline



Cost of gasoline keeps increasing by the day as shown in these signs throughout the city of Yuma and surrounding areas. (Photo by Phil Washburn)

prices are coming." Plaisance went on to say that the present cost of gasoline is not affecting the mission, but it could if prices continue to soar. However, at this time, there is no indication of fuel shortages.

Though the future is unknown on whether or not prices are going to impact the mission at YPG, there are

no future plans to replace the government fleet with more energy efficient vehicles. "To purchase vehicles, the process is done annually through the General Services Agency and, in the short term, there is nothing that can be done to change vehicles. Further-

(See Pumping pain on page 2)



News Notes

## Temporary relocation for health clinic

The YPG Health Clinic is temporarily relocating due to asbestos abatement and remodeling.

The clinic will be housed in buildings 962 and 964 located on D Street for approximately, six to eight weeks, and will be fully operational in these quarters starting Sept. 26. Our commitment to provide high quality ongoing care is our utmost priority. We apologize for any inconvenience this temporary move will cause.

All patients must report to building 962 to check in at the front desk. Following check in, they will be directed where to go next. Hearing tests or x-rays will not be conducted during this time. We will assist with alternate arrangements to ensure quality care.

Patient parking is available in the back of Bldg. 990 (Health Clinic). This will allow for easy access to medical care.

(See Health clinic temporary move on page 3)

## YPG Commander's Safety Award presented to a team of experts



During a recent award ceremony, Col. Stephen Kreider, YPG commander, presented the YPG Commander's Safety Award to a team of employees who were instrumental in the development and implementation of a new mechanical instrument called the mortar release device. This development came about when a gunner suffered a grievous injury to his hand while conducting a routine mortar test when one of the mortars prematurely slipped while he was positioning the round. The team in this photo consisted of the following personnel not in this order: Larry Bracamonte, chief, Mortars and Mines Branch; Julio Piedra, mortar team leader; Jonathan Clark, test director, Munitions and Weapons (EC III); Ed Adams, test director of Munitions and Weapons; Wayne Schilders, chief, Weapons Operations; Kevin Pond, ORSA Analyst; Tim Knabel, engineer, EC III; Red Phillips, consultant/engineer, EC III; Bryon Loftis and Matthew Keddy, machinist, EC III; David Smith of the Transducer Section at EC III; and Bryan Whitsell, engineer, EC III. (Photo by Yolie Canales)

## Pumping pain (Continued from page 1)

more, at this time, it is not a consideration," Plaisance said.

Even before gas prices began to soar, some YPG employees have done their part in conserving gasoline and keeping their costs down by riding in carpools. Others have taken different measures to save on the cost of gasoline.

One employee who has been driving to YPG since 1986, is Bill Doyle, internal evaluator for YPG. About one month ago he started conserving money at the gas pump by switching vehicles. Prior to the rising gas prices, Doyle drove a 2000 Ford F-250 pickup truck that has a 28 gallon gasoline tank and gets 11 miles to the gallon. Now, he makes the daily trip from his residence in Somerton in a 2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse that has a 10 gallon gasoline tank and gets 20 miles to the gallon, giving him a savings of approximately \$54 each time he fills up at the pumps.

"I thought about riding my bicycle to work, but I'm too old for that," said Doyle with a chuckle. "I even contemplated buying a motorcycle but thought it wasn't safe enough to ride to work."

For YPG residents, the affects of higher gasoline prices are also being

felt. "Even though I reside on post, I still have the need to make frequent trips to town for necessities and entertainment. I have cut down on the number of trips I make to try and save money on gasoline," said Staff Sgt. Maurice Oldham, chaplain assistant.

Another YPG employee who has been commuting in a carpool since 1986 is Joe Munoz, explosive operator for Ground Combat Ammunition Management Division. Over the years, he has car-pooled with three other employees to help reduce vehicle wear and tear, and save gasoline. "Before I started riding in carpools, I rode the bus that provided transportation for YPG employees. We would get picked up at the old National Guard Armory on 1<sup>st</sup> Street and at the old Silver Spur Rodeo grounds on 16<sup>th</sup> Street," said Munoz. "I wish we had the bus service again, especially now with it being crunch time on gas prices. If we had it, I would definitely use it. I'm sure there are other employees that would benefit from it as well."

Will employees benefit from a bus service at this time? Plaisance said that Army regulation states that any bus service must be self-supporting,

meaning that the entire cost of operating the service must be paid for by ticket sales. "Past experience has shown a reluctance on the part of employees to use the bus in sufficient numbers to make it cost effective. It is felt the price of gas would have to rise well above \$3 a gallon before enough people will want to ride the bus," said Plaisance. "It's too early to conduct a survey at this time and we don't know the eventual impact of gas prices. There are still too many unknowns about the gas situation."

As of September 13, YPG residents could purchase regular unleaded gasoline at the Army Air Force and Exchange Service Gas Station on the Main Administrative Area for \$2.87 per gallon with a valid active duty identification card. Members of the workforce are allowed to purchase a maximum of \$10 worth of gasoline, as needed on an emergency basis only.

"The situation is very fluid right now and none of the agencies know for sure what the impact of Katrina has caused with the loss of refineries, and the answers will be known in the next few weeks, Plaisance said. "However, we are in the planning and

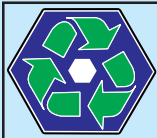
studying stages so we can be prepared for what might come."

In a recent survey, conducted by Public Affairs personnel, a total of 50 cars with commuters were counted on the weekend in the city of Yuma. Forty vehicles were single occupied and 10 out of the 50 were double occupied. An additional 50 vehicles were counted at the Yuma Test Center security gate on a Tuesday morning between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. This count indicated 47 vehicles were single occupied and three were double occupied. At this time, there is no centralized location for YPG employees who wish to carpool. However, if gas prices continue to rise, sharing the ride to work may be a consideration.

**Editor's Note: For those who wish to join a car-pool or form one, you can send your request via e-mail to Yolie Canales, editor of the Outpost, so it can be published in the News Note section of the installation publication.**

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*In observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 - Oct. 15*

# Second time around at the proving ground for Jose Arguelles

By Danielle Montgomery

**Editor's Note:** In observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 through October 15, the Outpost will highlight several Hispanics of the Yuma Proving Ground workforce. The individual's accomplishments, contributions and unique talents will be highlighted throughout the month.

The Outpost begins with Jose Arguelles, chief of the Military Personnel Division.

Arguelles gets pleasure from his job. He does it not only for his family, but for all the troops serving in the Global War on Terrorism.

"These great warriors are volunteering their service to their country. Having a son in the Navy, who is currently serving in Iraq, gives me a great sense of pride knowing that he is doing his part to help liberate a country that has been oppressed for years."

Arguelles did his part as well in the GWOT. From 1994 until 1998, Arguelles served as the Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge of the Personnel Division at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. In January 2005, after 21 years of military service, Arguelles retired and returned to YPG to do the same job just in different attire. He is now, chief of the Military Personnel Division.



**Jose Arguelles enjoys doing what he does not only for his immediate family (son's who are currently serving in the military) but also for the troops serving in the Global War on Terrorism. (Photo by Yolie Canales)**

The military personnel division is best known for issuing the CAC, or Common Access Card, to Department of Defense employees. This includes active duty personnel and government civilians. CACs are electronic identity cards that store certificates to help ensure individuals are who they say they are. In addition to CACs, Arguelles and his office issues dependent and retiree military identification cards.

Equally as important, and a major role for the military personnel division office, is the active duty

servicemember. They can prepare a promotion packet for an active duty Soldier and conduct a board for Soldiers or NCOs going before the promotion board. The military personnel division office also advises, performs and serves as the subject matter expert on all military finance actions. "Basically, we are an agency that supports both the officer and enlisted Soldier with all personnel needs. Our office has a support agreement with Fort Huachuca, Ariz. They support us in records and reassignments, but for the most part, they cut the Soldier's orders."

When asked which he liked better, doing this as a civilian or a Soldier, Arguelles said, "It is twofold. As an NCO, I had the respon-

sibility of taking care of 33 soldiers, their families and myself. Now, as a civilian, my only personnel responsibilities are Christopher Hook, formerly, Sgt. Hook, and myself. I enjoyed being an NCO and the duties that came along with that, but when things get hectic I can appreciate having only one other person to look after."

Aside from working and spending time with his family, Arguelles is a sports fanatic. "If I could have any job in the world, I would be an ESPN sportscaster next to Stuart Scott. That is my ultimate dream job." Arguelles is also an avid baseball fan and fantasizes of traveling the country to see as many of the original baseball stadiums that are left standing before "my number is called," as he jokingly put it.

When a man credits his wife as his "personal hero," it speaks volumes of the bond they share. For Arguelles, this is the case. "Without a doubt, my wife Susan is my personal hero. During my military career, I was gone a lot from the family. It was Susan who kept the family together and served in both capacities, mother and father. Susan is honest, dependable, caring and a no nonsense kind of woman. She is the backbone of the family and, along with our four children, the greatest inspiration of my life," Arguelles notes with a smile.

The military personnel division is located in building 2100, room 19. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Energy conservation efforts (Continued from page 1)

tor absence. Exceptions for short periods of after duty-hour requirements by Information Technology authority will specify start and stop dates for computers to be left powered-up for IT purposes."

Aside from concentrating purely on maximizing energy efficiency, Nixon is also a proponent of water conservation. Since water is a precious commodity in the desert, people throughout the installation are seeking to make every drop count. Automatic irrigation systems in new housing areas will operate late evening or early in the morning and will avoid wasting gallons of water needlessly. Eventually, all the old manual sprinkler systems will be replaced.

Another energy saver at the installation are the Photovoltaic Power Stations which uses the sun to generate energy. The solar energy panels,

located on main post and behind the Range Operation Center convert sunlight into electricity, which is then stored in large battery banks in nearby structures. The power station project received a Federal Energy Saver Showcase award in 1997. Criteria to receive the award included demonstrating efficient use of energy and having the potential to be used by other agencies. The use of solar panels saves the installation at least \$400,000 per year in energy costs.

Everywhere you go people are talking about saving money, energy and the environment. Conserving energy is a start that could save millions in the years to come. It takes everyone doing their part. Anyone with questions on how to conserve energy, should call Jack Nixon at (928) 328-2198.

## Health clinic temporary move (Continued from page 3)

Although all phone numbers will remain the same. If you have a problem reaching anyone, please call ext. 2666 so they can direct you to the number that you need. The command group and separate components will retain their phone numbers through the move.

In order to make the move, the clinic will be closed to sick calls, Sept. 21-23. During this time, the following clinic personnel can be reached on the following numbers: Post provider: 920-7933; Cpt. Gillies: 920-0782; Staff Sgt. Butler, NCOIC: 919-0548

Dale Donelson, Industrial Hygiene: 920-7963. Please note that Donelson, will be available on the cell phone only while the clinic is in temporary quarters.

We are scheduled to be back in the clinic, on or before Nov. 15. We will inform you of any changes to this timeline.

## Hispanic Heritage Month a time of honor, reverence

By Adrian Tapia Garza, News Editor, The South Texan

The month long celebration is a time of reflection on the contributions of Hispanics across the world.

The impact and cultural influence of Hispanics in the United States is being celebrated in a nationwide observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

The national celebration of Hispanic Heritage originally began as a weeklong observances in 1968 and, in 1988, the celebration was expanded to a month.

Did you know that Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15, the day several Latin American nations celebrate their independence, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico celebrates its independence on Sept. 16, while Chile marks its liberation from Spain on Sept. 18. The month-long celebration ends on "Dia de la Raza" or Columbus day, Oct. 12.

The celebration of Hispanic Heritage honors the contributions of Hispanics throughout history in such areas as art, politics, music, film Armed Forces and literature.

### What is in a name?

Dr. Felipe de Ortego y Gasca, Texas A&M University-Kingsville visiting lecturer on Chicano Literature, in his essay "Hispanic Heritage Month and Hispanic Heritage in the U.S., addresses the often controversial meaning of the term "Hispanic." Ortego states the term refers to "persons whose heritage derive from historical origins in Hispania-Roman name for Spain."

Despite some semantic confusion over whom the term Hispanic refers to, the one common link that determines whether someone is Hispanic is rooted in linguistics, Ortego says. Most person consider themselves Hispanic if they speak the Spanish language, despite ethnic discrepancies, Ortego adds.

(See honor and reverence on page 4)



# Army Assistant Secretary visits CRTC

By Yolie Canales

During a recent visit to Cold Regions Test Center, Claude M. Bolton Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, was given a facility tour as well as a briefing on extreme cold weather Stryker testing.

While at Bolio Lake, Bolton, accompanied by Brig. Gen. (P) Patrick O'Riley, then Program Executive Officer for Combat Support and Combat Service Support, presented Mike Etzinger, CRTC's Technical Director for three years and chief of CRTC's Test Operations Division for six months, with a letter of appreciation and an acquisition executive coin for his years of service.

Etzinger departed CRTC to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. This is a school meant as a stepping-stone to positions of greater responsibility.

Taking over as technical director of CRTC is Jeff Lipscomb. He has been chief of the Test Operations Division for the last three years and was also with CRTC as an Army major in the mid-1990s.

Lt. Col. George Bond, CRTC commander, will definitely miss Etzinger but looks forward to working with Lipscomb. "Mike's leadership and selfless commitment to the test center will be greatly missed," said Bond. "He never made any decision without the long term interest of CRTC in mind."

Following the Bolio site visit, Bolton toured the CRTC Mobility Test Complex and test-drove the hybrid electric Family Medium Tactical Vehicle, then under test at Cold Regions Test Center.

The Mobility Test Complex is a 3.2 mile long track with a 1,200 foot long by 200 foot wide skid pad. "We recently completed a 1000 foot x 800 foot lateral acceleration pad for testing turning, braking, skidding, etc.," said Bond. He explained that test slopes from 5 percent to 60 percent grade are under construction with completion due by the end of this



Left to right are Col. Mary Fuller, chief of staff, Brig. Gen. (P) Patrick O'Riley, PEO for Combat Systems and Combat Service Support; Honorable Claude Bolton, and Kevin Coulter of CRTC. Coulter is giving a briefing on the Family Medium Tactical Vehicle before they drive it. (Photos by Ms. Garrett, Fort Greely, Alaska)

month. "Currently, we have a 6,400 square foot maintenance building on site and are building a 4,500 square-foot administration facility and a 5,000 square-foot vehicle maintenance and storage facility," said Bond.

By November, CRTC should also have a snowmaking capability. So far, four variants of the Stryker, the armored security vehicle and the hybrid electric FMTV have been tested on the track. Bond said several commercial automotive and truck manufacturers have expressed interest in testing on the track this fall and winter.



Claude Bolton (right) congratulates and thanks Mike Etzinger for all his dedication and support to the Cold Regions Test Center's mission. Etzinger will attend a one-year school in Washington, D.C.



Kevin Coulter (back to camera) briefs Claude Bolton on how to drive the Family Medium Tactical Vehicle as he takes it for a spin on the Mobility Test Complex at Bolio Lake. Looking on is a representative from the truck manufacturer.



# Food inspector enjoys ensuring food is safe to consume by all at YPG

By Mary F. Flores

Having the confidence in knowing the food you consume at Yuma Proving Ground eating facilities is safe and healthy, is something that can be accredited to Sgt. Sandra Perez, veterinary food inspector and Non-commissioned Officer-in-Charge for Yuma Section Veterinary Services. Ensuring the health and welfare of Soldiers and civilians through quality assurance food inspections is a major function that Perez, performs on a regular basis.

For nearly a year, Perez has been the section supervisor providing food safety services for commissaries, conducting periodic food inspections on all Morale, Welfare and Recreation food facilities, to including eight facilities at YPG; nine, at Marine Corp Air Station, Yuma and six, at the Naval Air Facility in El Centro, Calif.

Sometimes taking up to two hours to complete an inspection, Perez, and her assistant Pfc.. 2 Sarah C. Anderson, food inspector, check shelf dates on food items to assure these items are not outdated, as well as inspecting kitchen areas for cleanliness and open food containers. "We inspect places like Coyote Lanes, Cactus Café and anywhere food products are sold," said Perez. "If we find any discrepancies such as outdated goods, or foods that have been recalled due to a contamination, we place these items on hold until further instructions are received from our higher headquarters."

In addition, Perez, checks for cold storage temperatures to ensure they are adequate for the various types of food being stored. "If we find a temperature failure, we inform the facility on what risk level the food is at and what they can sell immediately or discard," Perez said. "Additionally, we ensure that all food products that are delivered to the installation are from approved



**Sgt. Sandra Perez, veterinary food inspector and NCOIC at YPG's Veterinary Clinic, poses with her best friend, Chandler a Siberian Husky, whom she cherishes. (Photo by Mary Flores)**

source, for example, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration."

Prior to her assignment at YPG, Perez, was stationed at Norfolk, Va., with the Mid-Atlantic District Veterinary Command from 2002-2004. There, many of her duties were similar to those at YPG, with the exception of having to complete a tour of duty on a U. S. Navy ship. Hence, she was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and spent nearly five months onboard a ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

During this deployment, she made routine inspections to ensure food was safe for troops and food vendors were approved as sources. "I was the only Army person on board this big supply ship with a lot of work to do," Perez said. "It was like a floating Super Wal-Mart and other Naval ships would float next to us so we could fill their food supply orders."

Always knowing that she wanted to travel the world and work with animals after high school, Perez joined the Army after discovering the U.S. Army Veterinary Corporation. With nearly nine years of military

service, Perez began her career at the National Capital District Veterinary Command in Fort Belvoir, Va., and was later stationed in Bahrain, from 1999-2001, with the 46<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment Veterinary Services

While stationed in Bahrain, a small country next door to Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Perez performed food inspections, emphasizing on inspecting approved sources. In addition, she inspected slaughterhouses, dairy plants, water plants and other food storage and production facilities that the U.S. government planned to purchase items from. "This was a wonderful learning experience for me, because it afforded me the opportunity to see places such as Jordan, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and other countries," she said. "Visiting the embassies was also enjoyable and having an Arab background helped me to communicate while performing my duties. With my father being Lebanese, I learned to speak enough Arabic to get by."

As Perez, reflected on her tour of duty and deployment in Bahrain, she remembered when the 911 attack occurred. "I flew to Rota, Spain, on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and I remained there for four days until our unit received clearance to return to the United States," she said. "My family was so terrified for me."

While deployed overseas, Perez adopted "Chandler," a Siberian Husky, whom she cherishes. Perez attributes her friendly companion to helping her cope with some intense moments while in the Middle East.

To become a staff sergeant, successful completion of the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course is required. Therefore, Perez is preparing diligently by taking an online prerequisite course, eating healthy and exercising regularly before the four-month training course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "I try to be the best mentor for new Soldiers and to have patience and understanding just like my NCO's did with me when I was a private."

A native of San Diego, Calif., Perez, enjoys spending her spare time with family and her pet dog, running 10K, and hopes to form and instruct a belly dancing course in the near future.

Throughout her career she has been the recipient of numerous awards and enjoys meeting people at YPG, which she finds to be friendly and approachable. With at least two more years at YPG, Perez will continue to educate the community on food safety issues.

For more information, contact Sgt. Perez at 328-2037 or 328-2064. Her office is located at building 226, on the Main Administrative Area and office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 pm and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Honor and reverence (Continued from page 3)

"Not all American Hispanics agree on the term Hispanic to identify themselves. Many American Hispanics from the Southwest, for example, prefer to be called Mexican Americans or Chicanos and think the term Hispanic is an arbitrary label imposed on them by a bureaucracy with a colonial mentality," Ortego said.

While some prefer Hispanic or Chicano or Latino, Ortego notes the increasing important of understand such semantics. "Reaching the 45 million plus American Hispanic population requires knowledge of who they are and their centrality in the American future."

### Hispanic population

Currently, the U.S. is home to the fifth largest Hispanic population in the world.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, more than 35.3 million Hispanics are currently living in the U.S., making them the largest minority in the country. Experts anticipate the Hispanic population will grow to ac-

count for 25 percent of the U.S. population by 2050.

In Texas, the Hispanics population has grown and now constitutes 32 percent of the population. It's a real eye-opener to the rest of the county of the growth in Hispanic population.

Hispanics also contribute significantly to the U.S. economy, recent studies have shown. In 1997, Hispanics, according to the Census, owned 1.2 million U.S. businesses.

Census numbers reveal Hispanic-owned business generate up to \$200 billion in revenues.

Despite the continued growth of the Hispanic population in the U.S. much of the Hispanic youth is unfamiliar with their cultural roots, says Texas A&M University-Kingsville, assistant professor of Anthropology and Borderland Studies, Dr. Cecilia Rhoades.

Throughout her years of teaching at the university, Rhoades says she has found most Hispanic students are not familiar with their heritage.

Students learning about their Hispanic roots for the first time blossom into their cultural identity, Rhoades said.

"It is sad they (students) don't know what wonderful things were done in their culture," Rhoades said. "There is a lot of cause to celebrate and understand Hispanic culture."

Rhoades stresses the need for her students to understand and embrace their heritage, although many times, they go through their grade school and high school years without any formal teaching of their culture. "You are responsible for your future, it helps if you know your history."

**Editor's Note: According to yumadata.com statistics the Hispanic population in Yuma, is at a high of 46.4 percent.**

Next Outpost deadline is noon  
September 22nd



# Viewpoint

## Where do you go to getaway from Yuma on the weekends? By Public Affairs Staff



**Jim Munns, Airborne Test Force Supply:** I go to my home in San Bernadino, Calif., with my family.



**Mark Knight, Pyramid Services, Housing:** I go to San Diego and just hang out at the beach. I rent a place up there, kick back and enjoy it.



**Victor Warner, Airborne Test Force Supply:** I go to San Diego where it is cooler than here.



**Rob Thomas, Pyramid Services:** I go anywhere as long as its cooler than here.



**Zach Freytag, Pyramid Services:** I go to San Diego as a primary choice. Secondary choice would be the mountains in northern Arizona.



**Don Parks, Pyramid Services:** Where do I go? I go to Prescott, Ariz. It's about 6,000 feet elevation in the mountains and cooler. I make it a point to go every two to three weeks



**Sgt. 1st Class Brian Davis, Airborne Test Force:** Where I go to get away is usually San Diego, or Martinez Lake, or maybe hangout in the coolest place in Yuma, Texas Roadhouse.



**Jerry Suing, Pyramid Services, Plumbing Shop:** We've got a cabin in Hebrew, Ariz., in the White Mountains of northern Arizona. We go there every two weeks and cool down for a while.

## YPG Fitness Center has got you covered

By PAO Staff

Whether you're alone or have a team planned already, the Yuma Proving Ground Fitness Center has got more than enough activities and sports to keep you busy all year round. Whether your bag is basketball, softball, volleyball or even table tennis, they've got you covered.

YPG sporting activities run all year, softball is played on Cox Field during the "winter" months, while basketball and volleyball are held indoors during the summer.

There is no limit to the number of teams that can participate, however, the size of each team is decided by the sport. While the sports don't suffer from lack of interest, new teams are always welcome. "We haven't had to cancel a sporting event or activity in a lot of years, and that's a good thing for us," says Steve Ward, recreation programmer for the fitness center. In September, an event called YPG's most versatile athletes.



**Steve Ward, recreation programmer, keeps busy all year planning and executing activities for the community. (Photo by Patrick McMahon)**

During this two-day tournament, contestants will choose eight out of 11 possible events in which to compete. "It's not like home-run hitting or anything like that. It's a two-mile run, a 200-meter swim and closest to

the pin. It's things that groups (offices) can do and match against each other," explained Ward.

Ward has been running the programs at Yuma Proving Ground Fitness Center for 17 years and is one of

two certified fitness trainers on staff. The hardest part of his job is "getting people to come in and use the facility." He wants people to "come in and realize their health and fitness potential."

"George Labossiere and I, can "set something up to fit [the patron's] needs," says Ward. All manners of equipment are available at the fitness center to help prepare for games or general physical fitness, including free weights, selectorized, aerobic and anaerobic equipment. "It's the same thing as downtown, but you don't have to pay for it," Ward explained.

Eligibility for the sports is limited to active duty personnel, YPG contractors, Department of Defense civilians and dependents of the adult community, such as spouses and children over 18.

For more information, call Steve Ward at 328-2400.



## Army Watch

# Riggers bid farewell to three of their own during a luncheon at Air Delivery

By Mary F. Flores

The parachute bay area at the Airborne Task Force (ATF) Operations Facility at Yuma Proving Ground was filled with over 50 co-workers last month, who gathered for a barbecue luncheon to bid farewell to two active duty and one contractor rigger who are moving on to new duty stations.

Chief Warrant Officer David B. Haskins of ATF addressed the attendees and took the opportunity to thank Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gilberto Vargas, Operations non-commissioned officer-in charge; Staff Sgt. (P) Ted Lacey, parachute rigger and Tony Torres, parachute rigger for EC III, for their dedication and contributions to the test mission.

Vargas, who has been in the Army for 18 years, worked at YPG for three and one-half years performing rigger



*Receiving recognition for their hard work and dedication to the test mission is Staff Sgt. (P) Ted Lacey, parachute rigger (left), and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gilberto Vargas, Operations non-commissioned officer in-charge (right). Making the presentations are Master Sgt. Terry Horsman (left) and CW3 David Haskins of ATF (right).*

duties and was in charge of the maintenance, parachute pack and operations section. He has been assigned to Homestead Air Force Base in Homestead, Fla., as a parachute rig-

ger and will conduct re-supply trips to various locations in South America.

Another rigger who received kudos was Lacey, who has been at YPG since March 2002. Lacey oversaw

the High Altitude Low Opening section where he worked on multiple projects. He has been in the Army for 14 years and will be serving as an Army recruiter in Albany, NY.

Also receiving recognition for his duties as a rigger was Torres, who was stationed at YPG while serving in the Army from 1988-1996, and returned to YPG in January 2002, as a civilian. Torres, who is not going far, will be transferring to Pioneer Aerospace Co., to work as a parachute rigger at the Castle Dome Heliport.

All three employees were presented with certificates of appreciation by Haskins and Master Sgt. Terry Horsman.

# Coast Guard supports flood relief efforts

By PAC Chuck Wullenjohn, USCGR

Rescuing more than 24,000 people from the flooded areas of New Orleans aboard helicopters, boats and cutters, as well as ferries, the Coast Guard has played a significant role in responding to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. The most devastating natural disaster in our nation's history, a vast number of the Coast Guard's men and women stationed in the Gulf Coast area had their homes damaged or destroyed, making their heroic response truly inspiring.

The magnitude of the widespread disaster required the response of many others to supplement the work of local emergency responders. Coast Guard assets joined with numerous emergency and military organizations pouring in from around the nation in the days after the hurricane struck shore to provide help. More than 3,000 Coast Guard personnel from Florida to Louisiana are on duty now conducting search and rescue operations, waterway reconstitution and environmental impact operations. In total, more than 50 Coast Guard aircraft and more than 25 cutters, along with hundreds of small boats, have been deployed to the Gulf Coast.

Coast Guard Sector San Diego, responsible for the maritime protection of boating traffic over a wide section of the California coastline, sent two helicopters, crews, mechanics and rescue swimmers to Houston, Texas, on Sept. 3, to aid in the effort. Later relocated to Alexandria, La., closer to the damaged area, two crews were provided for each to ensure that the HH-60 Jayhawk aircraft could operate at full capacity.

"Everybody is pulling together, everybody wants to help out," said Chief Warrant Officer Wayne Harris, Air Station San Diego maintenance officer, who helped coordinate the San Diego effort. "Our primary

mission is to save lives and we're good at it."

According to Harris, air station officers deduced several days in advance that the breadth of the tragedy would require the deployment of two helicopters to the Gulf Coast. They notified all aircrews and maintenance personnel and moved forward efforts to perform necessary maintenance. Helicopters, under the best of conditions, are quite maintenance intensive, with six to eight hours of maintenance required for every hour of flight time.

"One of our three helicopters was undergoing major maintenance," said Harris, "and we had it in a number of pieces. We made sure it was in top shape in short order."

When Coast Guard Pacific Area directed the two helicopters to report to Houston, personnel were ready to go. Phone calls went out and people started arriving within five minutes. A 120 gallon external fuel tank was mounted on each aircraft to allow a longer flying distance; box lunches were prepared for each crew; and flyaway kits consisting of oil, tools, sampling equipment and much more was assembled for each aircraft. Crewmen, two crews for each helicopter, packed enough personal gear for two weeks.

Even a medical specialist, Chief Petty Officer Gerry Rodriguez, was called in to help. "I checked the medical records for each crewman and gave inoculations as necessary," he said. These included shots for tetanus/diphtheria, hepatitis A and hepatitis B.

Chief Petty Officer Nelson Deniston says the people assembled to go were truly excited about what they were about to do. "They're hyper," he said. "Search and rescue is our job and we're good at it. The helicopter crews we are deploying are 95 percent volunteer. People had to almost fight for the opportunity to go."

One of the Coast Guardsmen who came in to ready the aircraft but

didn't have the opportunity to deploy was Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyson Finn. He reported to the Coast Guard Air Station shortly after noon to perform operational checks of components in the aircraft tail section.

Tyson says he could feel the "brotherhood of the Coast Guard" in the days after Hurricane Katrina hit. "We all saw the television coverage and want to save as many lives as possible," he said. "The fact that I played a role in getting our two helicopters ready to go made me feel good."

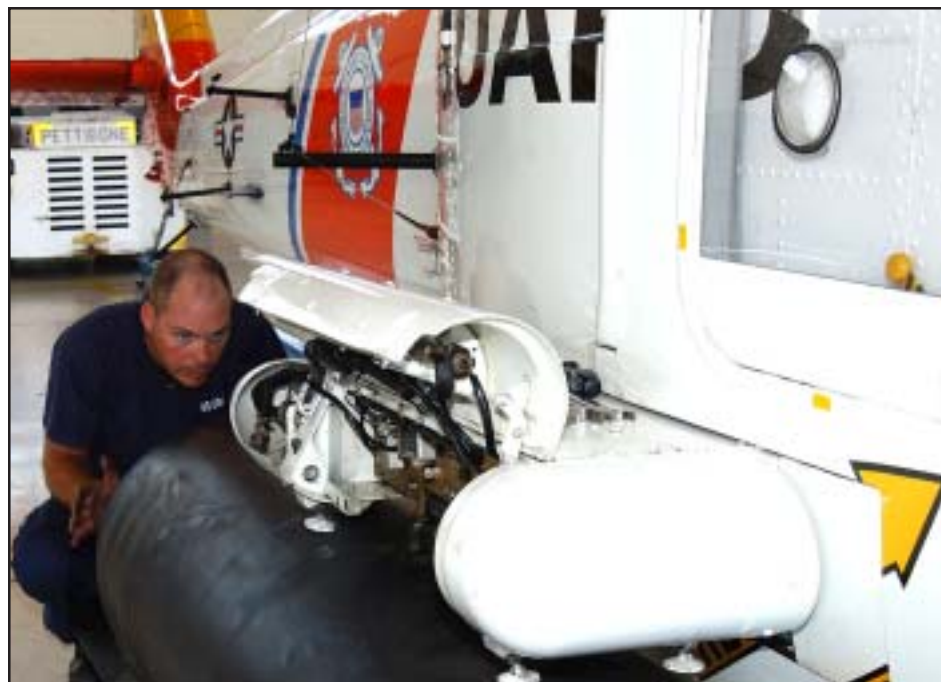
Coast Guard activities within the San Diego area contributed a great deal more to the response effort than just two helicopters and their rescue crews. A 16-person law enforcement team from a San Diego-based Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) went to Louisiana, as well as three rescue swimmers. Eight members of the MSST traveled in a three vehicle caravan that departed Sept. 7, followed by the remainder of the team that traveled by air two days

later. An HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco was relocated to San Diego to ensure that a minimum of two aircraft assets remained in the area for search and rescue missions.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Bryan Kelly was one of the MSST members that traveled to the disaster area by road. He looked forward to the opportunity and says the team is highly trained in tactical law enforcement.

"We can help bring order to the streets, deliver supplies, conduct rescue operations and do virtually anything necessary to support the flood relief effort," he said.

The aftermath of the deadly hurricane that blanketed 90,000 square miles and may have brought about the deaths of thousands required a well coordinated nationwide response. As a component of the Department of Homeland Security, the people of Coast Guard Sector San Diego were proud to support the effort.



*A mechanic at Coast Guard Air Station San Diego mounts an external 120 gallon fuel tank on an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter set to depart for flooded areas of the Gulf Coast. Many of the mechanics came in from home to ready the two helicopters for the long trip. (Photo by PAC Chuck Wullenjohn)*



NEWS & EVENTS FROM MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION



U.S. ARMY YOUTH PROGRESS CHALLENGE

# MOST VERSATILE ATHLETE COMPETITION

21-22 SEP 05

PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER NLT 20 SEP 05

This competition is designed to determine YPG's best all around athletes. Participants will compete in a variety of events that will test endurance, speed, strength and sports skills.

2 Mile Run	1200 Meter Row	Football Punt
Bowling	Closest to the Pin	200 Meter Swim
Softball Throw	2 Mile Bike	Free Throw
Dead Lift	100 Yard Dash	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE FITNESS CENTER AT YPG.

## SAN DIEGO ZOO

### KIDS FREE DAYS

October 1-31, 2005

Children ages 3-11 yrs. visiting the San Diego Zoo during the month of October will receive FREE GENERAL ADMISSION (2 per entrance only)

### FOUNDER'S DAY

October 2, 2005

All guests visiting the San Diego Zoo will receive FREE GENERAL ADMISSION (2 per entrance only)

PHONE 328-3714

## FAMILY PIZZA PALOOZA

Come for dinner... stay for the fun!

Buy a large Pizzawise Drink and the Pizzawise Pizza!

Tuesdays 1800-2000

## CHECK IT OUT

We have more than just books!

Contact the Post Library at 328-2860

# Join the Club

We have something for Everyone!!

<b>CLUBS!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Art/Drawing</li><li>Chess</li><li>Computer Tech</li><li>Cooking</li><li>Horse</li><li>Home Ec.</li><li>Needlecrafts/Quilting</li><li>Photography</li><li>Poetry</li><li>Rocketry/Aerospace</li><li>Shooting Sports</li><li>Cloverkids (4H)</li><li>Dramat</li><li>Explorers</li></ul>	<b>SPORTS!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Soccer</li><li>Basketball</li><li>Cheerleading</li><li>Flag Football</li></ul>
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**CLASSES!**

- Arts & Crafts
- Babysitter Training
- Cooking
- Martial Arts

Sign up at the Youth Center

Club meetings (for most clubs) begin Saturdays, 8 October

For more information, contact the Youth Center at 328-2860

# MICRO SOCCER

Register 8-30 Sep 05 at the Youth Center

Games begin 15 Oct 05

Participants must be 4-10 years old (as of 15 Oct 05)

\$30 Registration fee

For more information, contact the Youth Center at 328-2860.

# Bridging cultures

Support and assistance for foreign-born spouses is available via Yuma Proving Ground's Army Community Service. We have the capability to connect you with agencies that can provide information in areas such as: English as a Second Language, GED (high school equivalency diploma), and citizenship. Please join us ACS, Bldg. 309/upstairs on the following dates: Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12-1 p.m.; Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9-10 a.m.; Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2-3 p.m.; and Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 p.m. For more information or to sign-up, please call ACS at 328-2513. **Please RSVP by Sept. 26.**